

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2012
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Eugene F. Kennedy, Council President Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson (Absent), Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator & City Treasurer, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk,

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilmember Yeargin

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

1.1.5. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Monday, July 2, 2012. The motion carried.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Regular Work Session meeting minutes for Monday, July 2, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Monday, July 9, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve Public Session meeting minutes for Monday, July 9, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Tuesday, July 17, 2012. The motioned carried. The minutes were unanimously approved. Councilmember Simms stated that she has not had the opportunity to review the minutes. She would like to review the minutes and bring back any changes at the next meeting.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Yeargin to approve Special Session meeting minutes for Monday, July 30, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Yeargin to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Monday, August 20, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Monday, August 27, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Regular Work Session meeting minutes for Tuesday, September 4, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Wednesday, September 12, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. Delegate Michael Vaughn

- Delegate Vaughn presented the Fiscal and Policy Note on the Gaming Expansion bill for SB-1.

- He stated that in 2007 the General Assembly addressed the issue with gaming.
- It was agreed that Maryland will approve five slots to keep gamers home. They have three locations up and running now.
- They have created a sixth site with full table gambling. He stated that it was several that didn't agree because the first five sites aren't up and running.
- The sixth site will be at the National Harbor. He stated that the Department of Legislative Service estimated 199 million will come in from the casino in 2016. It's allocated for the state, but will be broken down by 24 Districts. It may equal to 8 million per district.
- He stated that casino is authorized to have 3000 machines. It will be open for 24 hours/7 days a week. They approved it for table games and MGM will obtain 80% of all revenue. The state will receive 20%, the state may get another 10%.
- He stated the City of Baltimore was approved for Arundel Mills & Caesars in Baltimore. Prince George's County is requested to pay a hold harmless fee to each of the facilities.
- He stated he thinks it's a bad deal. He posed a question about a tax break for anyone in the last 10-15 years. He stated they will get a tax break automatically.
- He stated when the bill was first debated it was 2,000 jobs, but now it's 12,000.
- He stated he was curious on how they calculated the monies to determine how much the state would lose by not establishing the casino.
- He stated that based upon the estimated amount each district will receive will not receive enough to build a school.
- He stated that the referendum process is when you will need a majority of registered voters in the state to decide.
- He feels it will be a challenging and end up in court. He stated the original was Rosecroft and we cannot fund both sites.
- The jobs may be similar to jobs at Fed-Ex Field. Those jobs are paying minimum wage. The average salaries suppose to be \$55,000. It was stated the position would be in House Keeping.
- He suggested everyone to go online, as he did to look up jobs at the casinos, which are part-time.
- The construction jobs will be given to union workers.

3. LEGISLATION

3.1. Ordinance O-13-04 Special Event Policy was introduced by the City Council on Monday, October 8, 2012. It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to suspend the rules on reading Ordinance O-13-04. It was agreed upon by the Council to read the entire Ordinance on the second reading. The motion carried. The City Clerk read the explanatory section of the Ordinance.

4. REPORTS

4.1. Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Grant stated that they need to decide on the Legislative Breakfast. He would like to know if the Council would make any recommendations on the local, state and federal level.
- He stated that the Acting City Administrator has met with the staff last month regarding the Legislative Breakfast and requested any recommendations from them.
- He stated the next step for the City Center Project will be a meeting with the committee on October 11, 2012 with the City Attorney to review and discuss the master lease.
- The committee will approve the master lease and bring the recommendation to the full council.
- After the master lease is signed funding is released immediately. Councilmember Yeargin wanted to know when the City be refunded for the monies spent on the Groundbreaking Ceremony. Mayor Grant stated that no monies will be reimbursed before the master lease is signed.

4.2. Kelly Porter, Council President Report:

- Council President Porter stated that his report is on the information stand

4.3 Kevin Brenner, Chief-Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department

- Chief Brenner provided a verbal report.
- He stated that this week is Fire Prevention Week and they are encouraging residents to check their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and their furnaces.
- He stated they are working to purchase a used Rescue Truck located in Lancaster, PA. The request was tabled at the Fire Department Meeting last week.
- They do not have any immediate concerns in the near future for staffing
- The Fire Department relocation has been put back on the skid due to financing not being good.

4.4. Acting City Administrator – Robert L. Ashton

- Mr. Ashton stated that he will be sending a letter to request an extension of the Cable Franchise Agreement expiration date, which is April 2013.
- He stated that the Acting City Administrator and Chief of Police will make a decision on moving the cameras.

4.5. Finance Department- Robert Ashton, Treasurer

- Mr. Ashton stated that they have put a finance book together, which will be the procedures manual for his Department.
- He stated that the assessment notices will be forthcoming at the end of the year.

4.6. Police Department – James Nolan, Interim Chief of Police

- Mr. Ashton stated that the Interim Chief of Police had put together a transitional memorandum for the oncoming Chief.

4.7. Public Works Department- Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

- Mr. Ashton stated that Mr. Thompson had been under weather and their written report was on the information stand.
- He stated that the Public Work Department will be preparing for the inclement weather.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

- Mr. Johnny Coleman, 12010 Chesterton Dr, Upper Marlboro, MD-He stated that he observed the Mayor give a beautiful proclamation to the Fire Department, and afterwards he was informed they were going to close station. He stated that he had a multitude of signatures on the petition.
- He would like to see a Football and Baseball Camp for kids and an Easter Egg Hunt in Goodwin Park.
- He stated that he wants to be a part of the budget for the City.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1 Vote of Council President

- It was two Councilmember's nominated for Council President.
- There were five votes cast for the two nominee, Councilmember Kelly Porter and Councilmember Aretha Stephenson.
- Councilmember Porter received four votes and Councilmember Stephenson received one vote.
- Councilmember Kelly Porter will serve as the Council President for the next year.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1. None

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 8.1. Congresswoman Donna Edwards, 4th Annual College and Career Fair, Saturday, October 13, 2012, Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Rd., Landover, MD from 8:30a.m.-1:00p.m.
- 8.2. Ward II Health Fair, Friday, October 19, 2012, Pleasant Homes Community Center, 6810 Greig St., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 from 12:00p.m.-4:00p.m.
- 8.3. Ward II Crime Prevention Training, Wednesday, October 24, 2012, Pleasant Homes Community Center, 6810 Greig, St., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
- 8.4. Veteran's Day Program, Monday, November 12, 2012, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 from 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

9. ADJOURN- The meeting was adjourned at 8:26p.m.

Submitted by,


Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk